

Divisional of prior application Serial No. 09/828,221

REMARKS

As indicated above, this is a Preliminary Amendment for the above-captioned Rule 1.53(b) Divisional application of U.S. Serial No. 09/828,221 filed April 9, 2001 which is a divisional application of prior application Serial No. 09/268,338 filed March 16, 1999, Patent No. 6,249,135 B1, issued June 19, 2001 which was a continuation-in-part application of Serial No. 09/009,261 filed January 20, 1998. This Preliminary Amendment is concurrently filed with the Rule 1.53(b) Divisional application.

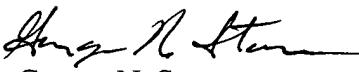
Claims 16, 18-22 and 24-31 are pending in this Divisional Application. Claims 1-15, 17, 23 and 32 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

The above amendments are believed to place the claims in proper condition for examination. Early and favorable action is awaited.

In the event that any fees are due in connection with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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